

REMARKS

Claims 17-31 and 33-37 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 17-31 and 33-36 are amended. Claim 37 is added. No new matter is added. Claim 32 is canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in that claim. A Request for Continued Examination is attached. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representatives by Examiner Chiang in the October 18 and 22, 2009 telephone interviews. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 17-29 and 31-36 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0155963 to Huang. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Huang teaches at, *e.g.*, paragraph [0011], a charge pump circuit that includes at least one voltage-boosting stage and at least one voltage multiplier. Further, Huang teaches at, *e.g.*, Abstract, that the charge pump circuit is used for generating a higher output voltage when inputting a voltage regularly. Thus, Huang teaches V_{out} greater than V_{DD} .

After extensive discussion with Examiner Chiang during the September 18 and 22 telephone interviews, the Examiner made clear that he believed that the Huang reference could still be considered to teach the combinations of all of the features positively recited in the pending claims. Applicants' representative argued that Huang could not reasonably be considered to teach all the features recited in the pending claims. When no agreement was reached, Applicants chose to amend the claims to further clarify the subject matter recited in those claims.

Independent claims 1, 7, 35 and 36 are amended to clarify the recited structures, and to add a processor connected between the first and second power supplies. It should be noted

that support for the amendments to the claims can be found in Applicants' disclosure at least at page 1, line 15; page 2, line 17; page 3, line 2; and page 8, line 13, specifically regarding the processor of the digital part.

The independent claims now recite, among other features, that each of the subassemblies comprises at least a processor connected between the first and second power supply terminals; and a clock input coupled to the clock circuit. Additionally, the claims recite that a level shifter is connected between the clock circuit and the clock input of at least one of the subassemblies, wherein the level shifter is configured to adapt the clock signal to a voltage between the first and second power supply terminals of the at least one of the subassemblies, and the subassemblies are connected in series by means of their first and second power supply terminals between terminals of a voltage supply source. Huang's disclosure of a charge pump circuit, which is generally a circuit generating a higher output voltage when inputting a voltage regularly and comprising a boosting stage and at least one voltage multiplier cannot reasonably be considered to teach any feature that corresponds to the digital part comprising the plurality of subassemblies; and a subassembly comprising a processor, as is now recited, among other features, in each of the independent claims.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Huang cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or to have rendered obvious, the combinations of all of the features positively recited in independent claims 17, 35 and 36. Further, Huang cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or to have rendered obvious, the combinations of all of the features recited in claims 18-29, 31, 33 and 34 for at least the dependence of these claims on allowable base claims, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 17-29, 31 and 33-36 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Huang are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang in view of one or more of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0077151 to Bhattacharyya, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0087084 to Hsieh, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0094763 to Agnello et al. (hereinafter "Agnello") and U.S. Patent No. 2004/0018668 to Maszara. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As argued above, Huang cannot reasonably be considered to have suggested the combination of all of the features recited in claim 17. None of the secondary references are cited as remedying the deficiencies of Huang. Therefore, the combination of Huang with Bhattacharyya, Hsieh, Agnello and Maszara cannot reasonably be considered to have suggested the combination of all of the features recited in claim 30 for at least the dependence of this claim on allowable base claim 17, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that this claim recites.

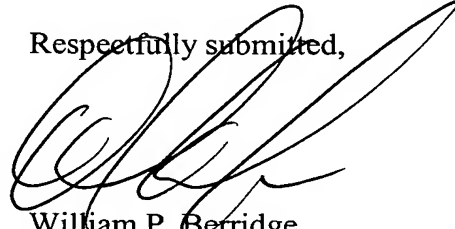
Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang in view of one or more of Bhattacharyya, Hsieh, Agnello and Maszara are respectfully requested.

Added claim 37 is allowable at least its dependence on claim 17, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that claim recites.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 17-31 and 33-37 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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WPB:DAT/mcp

Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Request for Continued Examination

Date: December 8, 2009

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